Illinois Environmental Protection Agency
Bureau of Water, Permit Section
(IEPA)

2520 West Iles, Post Office Box 19276, Springfield, Illinois 62794-9276, 217/782-3362

The IEPA has issued a Public Notice of a request for a Clean Water Act Section 401 water quality certification that would allow the issuance of a federal permit for the discharge of pollutants to waters of the State.

Public Notice Beginning Date:	**Public Notice Ending Date:**
Tuesday, August 26, 2025	Monday, September 1, 2025

Agency Log No.: C-0003-25

Federal Permit Information: Federal permit/license no. LRC-2024-496 is under the jurisdiction of Chicago District, Regulatory Branch U.S. Army Corps of Engineers

Name and Address of Discharger: Illinois Department of Transportation, Jose Rios and Fawad Aqueel - 201 West Center Court, Schaumburg, IL 60196-1096

Discharge Location: In Section 35 of Township 42-North and Range 9-East of the East 3rd Principal Meridian in Cook County. Additional project location information includes the following: IL 62 (Algonquin Rd) to Central Rd, South Barrington, Hoffman Estates, IL 60010

Name of Receiving Water: Poplar Creek

Project Name/Description: Barrington Road - Central Road to IL Route 62 (Algonquin Rd) - proposed widening and reconstruction of Barrington Road to provide two lanes in each direction separated by a median from Mundhank Road to IL 62

Construction Schedule: Beginning Mar 2025 and ending Apr 2025

The Public Notice period will begin and end on the dates indicated in the heading of this Public Notice. Interested persons are invited to submit written comments on the project to the IEPA at the above address. Commenters must provide their name and address along with comments on the certification request. The IEPA Log number must appear on each comment page. Commenters may include a request for public hearing. Only hearing requests and comments that pertain to Clean Water Act Section 401 authority will be considered. This authority provides consideration of whether the permit or license would be consistent with Sections 301, 302, 303, 306, or 307 of the CWA, as well as "any other appropriate requirement of State [or tribal] law". Requests for additional comment period must provide a demonstration of need. The final day of comment acceptance will be on the Public Notice Ending date shown above, unless the IEPA grants an extended notice period. The attached Fact Sheet provides a detailed description of the project and the findings of the IEPA's antidegradation assessment.

If written comments or requests indicate a significant degree of public interest in the certification application, the IEPA may, at its discretion, hold a public hearing. Public notice will be given 30 days before any public hearing. If a Section 401 water quality certification is issued, response to relevant comments will be provided at the time of the certification. For further information, please see the contact information below.

Name: Webert Deslien Email: webert.deslien@illinois.gov Phone: 217/782-3362

Post Document. No. C-0003-25-08262025-PublicNoticeAndFactSheet.pdf

401 Water Quality Certification Fact Sheet for Barrington Road

IEPA Log No. C-0003-25

Contact: Yetunde Agbesola 217-782-9852

Illinois Department of Transportation (IDOT) has applied for a 401 Water Quality Certification for impacts associated with improvements to Barington Road, from Central Road to IL 62 (Algonquin Road), in the Villages of Hoffman Estates and South Barrington, Cook County.

The proposed project will occur along Barrington Road in Section 25, Township 42 North, Range 9 East, and Section 26, Township 42 North, Range 9 East, Cook County. The scope of work for the proposed improvements includes the reconstruction and widening of Barrington Road, replacement of the existing box culvert carrying Barrington Road over Poplar Creek, raising of the roadway profile, drainage improvements, modernization and replacement of traffic lights, and installation of a new shared-use path. To mitigate settlement concerns, a pile supported embankment will be installed within an 800-foot segment where poor soils are present. These improvements, combined, delineate the purpose of this project – which is, to improve safety and operations along the Barrington Road by addressing crash patterns, correcting design deficiencies, and incorporating bicycle and pedestrian accommodations.

This execution of this project will permanently impact 1.42 acres of wetland and Waters of the U.S. (WOTUS) under the U.S Army Corps of Engineers (USACE) jurisdiction. This estimation constitutes 1.402 acres of jurisdictional wetlands in total area and total of 0.02 acres or 75 linear feet (LF) of permanent impacts to the Waters of the U.S. (WOTUS) from roadway widening, shared use path incorporation, and drainage improvements. Furthermore, temporary impacts to 0.03 acres or 113 LF – from staging, regrading, and drainage improvements – are anticipated. The mitigation ratio for each wetland that will be impacted is 1.5:1, except for Wetland 11 with a ratio of 3:1. Therefore, the total required mitigation acreage is 2.133 acres for USACE impacts and is to occur in the form of wetland bank credit. The proposed improvements will not result in any loss to the stream channel.

Information used in this review was obtained from the application documents dated November 14, 2024, December 10, 2024, April 24, 2025, and July 17, 2025.

Identification and Characterization of the Affected Water Body.

The segment of Poplar Creek (Waterbody Segment IL_DTG-02) located within the project limits has 0 cfs of flow during critical 7Q10 low-flow conditions. Poplar Creek is classified as a general use water. Polar Creek is not listed as a biologically significant stream in the 2008 Illinois Department of Natural Resources (IDNR) Publication *Integrating Multiple Taxa in a Biological Stream Rating System*, nor is it given an integrity rating in that document. Poplar Creek is listed on the 2024 Illinois Integrated Water Quality Report and Section 303(d) List as impaired on the 303(d) list for Primary Contact and Aquatic Life uses. Fecal coliform is listed as the cause of the Primary Contact use impairment, while Total Suspended Soils (TSS) and cause unknown are listed as the causes of

the Aquatic Life use impairment. Aesthetic Quality use is fully supported. Poplar Creek is not subject to enhanced dissolved oxygen standards. This segment of Poplar Creek has a proposed TMDL for Fecal Coliform, with no date provided. This project lies within the Poplar Creek Watershed, a sub-watershed of the Upper Fox River Watershed. Poplar Creek has a total drainage area of 2,066 acres.

Huff & Huff, Inc. (H&H) staff conducted wetland and surface water delineations for the proposed project on April 23 and 25, and May 2, 2024. The survey identified five (5) surface waters, and twelve (12) wetlands. The project will impact 11 of the wetlands – with Wetland 8 being the only unimpacted one within the project limits. Wetlands 1, 3, 6, and 12 are wet meadows; Wetlands 2, 5, 9, 10, and 11 are marsh wetlands; and Wetlands 4, 7, and 8 are forested wetlands. Of all twelve (12) wetlands, only Wetland 11 was classified as a High-Quality resource. Further description of the impacted wetlands follows. See also Table 1 of this document.

Site 1 is a wet meadow located east of Barrington Road and approximately 435 feet north of Mundhank Road. A total of 0.003 acre of this site is located within the project limits. Site 1 serves the functions of flood control, conveyance, treatment of surface runoff, nutrient and sediment uptake, erosion control, and wildlife habitat. The site receives surface water from adjacent uplands and impervious surfaces. Dominant vegetation includes Common Satin grass (*Muhlenbergia frondosa*), and Reed Canary grass (*Phalaris arundinacea*). The native FQI and native mean C-value of Site 1 are 4.0 and 2.0 respectively, indicating severely degraded floristic quality.

Site 2 is a marsh located east of Barrington Road and approximately 800 feet north of Mundhank Road. A total of 0.06 acre of Site 2 is located within the project limits. Site 2 serves the functions of flood control, conveyance treatment of surface runoff, erosion control, nutrient and sediment uptake, and wildlife habitat. Site 2 receives surface water from adjacent uplands and impervious surfaces. Crayfish burrows were present within this wetland. Dominant vegetation includes Crabapple (*Malus sp.*), Common Buckthorn (*Rhamnus cathartica*), and Common Reed (*Phragmites australis*). The native FQI and native mean C-value of Site 2 are 1.2 and 0.7 respectively, indicating severely degraded floristic quality.

Site 3 is a wet meadow located east of Barrington Road and approximately 585 feet south of Covered Bridge Road. A total of 0.05 acre of Site 3 is located within the project limits. Site 3 serves the functions of flood control, treatment of surface runoff, erosion control, nutrient and sediment uptake, and wildlife habitat. Site 3 receives surface water from adjacent uplands and impervious surfaces. Crayfish burrows were present within this wetland. Dominant vegetation includes Common Reed. The native FQI and native mean C-value of Site 3 are 5.5 and 2.8 respectively, indicating degraded floristic quality.

Site 4 is a forested wetland located east of Barrington Road and approximately 530 feet north of Covered Bridge Road. A total of 0.18 acre of Site 4 is located within the project limits. Site 4 serves the functions of flood control, treatment of surface runoff, erosion control, nutrient and sediment uptake, and wildlife habitat. Site 4 receives surface water from adjacent uplands and impervious

surfaces. Dominant vegetation includes Box Elder (*Acer negundo*), Common Buckthorn, Highbush Cranberry (*Viburnum opulus*), and Common Reed. The native FQI and native mean C-value of Site 4 are 7.2 and 2.2 respectively, indicating degraded floristic quality.

Site 5 is a marsh abutting Poplar Creek (Site W3), located east of Barrington Road and north and south of Poplar Creek. A total of 0.56 acre of Site 5 is located within the project limits. Site 5 serves the functions of flood control, conveyance treatment of surface runoff, erosion control, nutrient and sediment uptake, and wildlife habitat. Site 5 receives surface water from adjacent uplands, impervious surfaces, and periodic overbank flooding from the adjacent Poplar Creek. Dominant vegetation includes redbud (*Cercis canadensis*), American Elm (*Ulmus americana*), Common Buckthorn, Common Reed, Lily-of-the-Valley (*Convallaria majalis*), Riverbank Grape (*Vitis riparia*). The native FQI, and native mean C-value of Site 5 are 5.7 and 1.9 respectively, indicating degraded floristic quality.

Site 6 is a wet meadow located east of Barrington Road and approximately 140 feet north of Falcon Lakes Drive. A total of 0.25 acre of Site 6 is located within the project limits. Site 6 serves the functions of flood control, treatment of surface runoff, erosion control, nutrient and sediment uptake, and wildlife habitat. Site 6 receives surface water from adjacent uplands and impervious surfaces. Crayfish burrows were present within this wetland. Dominant vegetation includes Reed Canary grass. The native FQI and native mean C-value of Site 6 are 8.3 and 2.2 respectively, indicating degraded floristic quality.

Site 7 is a forested wetland abutting a tributary to Poplar Creek (Site W4) located east of Barrington Road and approximately 645 feet north of IL 62. A total of 0.02 acre of Site 7 is located within the project limits. Site 7 serves the functions of flood control, conveyance, treatment of surface runoff, erosion control, nutrient and sediment uptake, and wildlife habitat. Site 7 receives surface water from adjacent uplands, impervious surfaces, and periodic overbank flooding from the adjacent tributary to Poplar Creek. Dominant vegetation includes Common Buckthorn, Tartarian Honeysuckle (*Lonicera tatarica*), Highbush Cranberry, and White Avens (*Geum canadense*). The native FQI and native mean C-value of Site 7 are 4.2 and 1.6 respectively, indicating severely degraded floristic quality.

Site 9 is a marsh located west of Barrington Road and approximately 330 feet south of IL 62. A total of 0.20 acre of this site is located within the project limits. Site 9 serves the functions of flood control, treatment of surface runoff, erosion control, nutrient and sediment uptake, and wildlife habitat. Site 9 receives surface water from adjacent uplands and impervious surfaces. Dominant vegetation includes Common Reed. The native FQI and native mean C-value of Site 9 are 6.1 and 1.8 respectively, indicating degraded floristic quality.

Site 10 is a marsh located west of Barrington Road and immediately north of Falcon Lakes Drive. A total of 0.05 acre of Site 10 is located within the project limits. Site 10 serves the functions of flood control, conveyance, treatment of surface runoff, erosion control, nutrient and sediment uptake, and wildlife habitat. Site 10 receives surface water from adjacent uplands and impervious

surfaces. Dominant vegetation includes Common Buckthorn and Common Reed. The native FQI and native mean C-value of Site 10 are 4.5 and 2.3 respectively, indicating severely degraded floristic quality.

Site 11 is a marsh abutting Poplar Creek (Site W3) located west of Barrington Road and approximately 390 feet south of Falcon Lakes Drive. A total of 0.15 acre of Site 11 is located within the project limits. Site 11 serves the functions of flood control, conveyance, treatment of surface runoff, erosion control, nutrient and sediment uptake, and wildlife habitat. Dominant vegetation includes black willow (*Salix nigra*), Common Buckthorn, Common Reed, and Riverbank Grape. The native FQI and native mean C-value of Site 11 are 10.2 and 4.2 respectively, indicating moderate floristic quality with some native character; however, this site will be considered high quality due to a Mean C value over 3.5.

Site 12 is a wet meadow located adjacent to an agricultural field, west of Barrington Road and approximately 380 feet south of Terra Vita Drive. A total of 0.15 acre of Site 12 is located within the project limits. Site 12 serves the functions of flood control, treatment of surface runoff, erosion control, nutrient and sediment uptake, and wildlife habitat. Site 12 receives surface water from adjacent uplands and impervious surfaces. Dominant vegetation includes Pale Dogwood (*Cornus obliqua*) and Common Reed. The native FQI and native mean C-value of Site 12 are 6.4 and 2.3 respectively, indicating degraded floristic quality.

Table 1: Summary – Wetland Characteristics

Site	**Wetland Type**	**FQI**	**Mean C**	**High Quality ?**	**Project Area (Ac.)**	**Impacted Area (Ac.)**
Wetland 1	Wet Meadow	4.0	2.0	No	0.003	0.002
Wetland 2	Marsh Wetland	1.2	0.7	No	0.06	0.06
Wetland 3	Wet Meadow	5.5	2.8	No	0.05	0.05
Wetland 4	Forested Wetland	7.2	2.2	No	0.18	0.18
Wetland 5	Marsh Wetland	5.7	1.9	No	0.56	0.55
Wetland 6	Wet Meadow	8.3	2.2	No	0.25	0.25
Wetland 7	Forested Wetland	4.2	1.6	No	0.02	0.01
Wetland 8	Forested	10.8	2.8	No	0	N/A
Wetland 9	Marsh Wetland	6.1	1.8	No	0.20	0.16
Wetland 10	Marsh Wetland	4.5	2.3	No	0.05	0.01
Wetland 11	Marsh Wetland	10.2	4.2	Yes	0.15	0.02
Wetland 12	Wet Meadow	6.4	2.3	No	0.15	0.11
					1.673 (Total)	**1.402 (Total)**

The surface waters WOTUS W1 and W5 are ephemeral tributaries to Poplar Creek, W2 and W4 are intermittent tributaries to Poplar Creek, and W3 is Poplar Creek. None of the surface waters are classified as a High-Quality resource. Table 2 provides a summary of all the surface waters within

the project. However, a description of only the surface water that will be impacted, Site W3 (WOTUS 3), is subsequently provided.

Table 2: Summary – Jurisdictional Surface Water Characteristics

Site	Water Type	Flow Regime	Flow Direction	High Quality ?	Project Area (Ac.)	Impacted Area (Ac.)
Site W1 (WOTUS 1)	Tributary to Poplar Creek	Ephemeral	West	No	0.003	0
Site W2 (WOTUS 2)	Tributary to Poplar Creek	Ephemeral	West	No	0.06	0
Site W3 (WOTUS 3)	Poplar Creek	Perennial	West	No No	0.05	0.02 (P)* 0.03 (T)**
Site W4 (WOTUS 4)	Tributary to Poplar Creek	Intermittent	East	No	0.18	0
Site W5 (WOTUS 5)	Tributary to Poplar Creek	Ephemeral	West	No	0.56	0

Site W3 (WOTUS 3): is Poplar Creek, a perennial stream which flows west beneath Barrington Road approximately 350 south of Falcon Lakes Drive. Site W3 provides the functions of conveyance and wildlife habitat. The site receives surface water from adjacent wetlands, uplands, and impervious surfaces.

Identification of Proposed Pollutant Load Increases or Potential Impacts on Uses.

Best Management Practices (BMPs) will be implemented, as appropriate, to minimize the surface water impact that would occur during the execution of this project.

Drainage and roadway improvements will be conducted in the proposed project. Drainage improvements will constitute a conversion of the existing open drainage system along Barrington, between Mundhank Road and IL 62, to a closed drainage system with curb and gutter on both sides. The improvements will further include regrading of existing roadside ditches and replacing the existing single cell 7ft x 5ft box culvert at Poplar Creek with a proposed double cell 12ft x 6ft box culvert. Adding a shared use path along the west side of Barrington Road, widening Barrington Road into two lanes in each direction of the entire corridor, raising the profile, modernizing and replacing traffic signals, and incorporating a pile-supported embankment system to mitigate settlement concerns in areas where bad soil is present all constitute the roadway improvements.

The roadway widening, shared use path incorporation, and drainage improvements in the construction of this project will have permanent and unavoidable impact on 1.42-acre wetland /

WOTUS under the U.S. Army Corps of Engineer's (USACE). Staging, regrading, and drainage improvements will cause temporary impacts to 0.03-acre (225 feet) of the wetlands / WOTUS. Nevertheless, none of the proposed improvements will result in any loss to the stream channel.

Fate and Effect of Parameters Proposed for Increased Loading.

The proposed project will permanently impact 11 of 12 delineated wetlands and permanently/temporarily impact one surface water (see Tables 3 and 4). Best Management Practices that align with local, state, and federal regulations will be implemented to minimize the surface water impacts during construction appropriate erosion and sediment control. The applicant proposes to purchase 2.133-acre of wetland bank credits to mitigate the 1.402-acre of wetland impact that would occur from executing the proposed project. The ratio at which the impact to wetland will be mitigated is 1.5:1, except for Wetland 11 that will be mitigated at a 3:1 ratio. The means to mitigate the permanent impact that will occur to 0.02 acres of WOTUS (Site W3) has yet to be determined. The temporary impact to 0.03 acres to Site W3 will stem from all activities related to the installation of the dual cell box culvert that would carry Barrington Road over Poplar Creek. (See Tables 3 and 4.)

Table 3: Potential Wetland Impact and Mitigation

Site	Project Area (Ac.)	Impacted Area (Ac.)	Mitigation Credits Required	Mitigation Ratio	Impact Type	Impact Reason
Wetland 1	0.003	0.002	0.003	1.5:1	Permanent	Fill
Wetland 2	0.06	0.06	0.09	1.5:1	Permanent	Fill
Wetland 3	0.05	0.05	0.075	1.5:1	Permanent	Fill
Wetland 4	0.18	0.18	0.27	1.5:1	Permanent	Fill
Wetland 5	0.56	0.55	0.825	1.5:1	Permanent	Fill
Wetland 6	0.25	0.25	0.375	1.5:1	Permanent	Excavation
Wetland 7	0.02	0.01	0.015	1.5:1	Permanent	Drainage Improvements
Wetland 9	0.20	0.16	0.24	1.5:1	Permanent	Fill
Wetland 10	0.05	0.01	0.015	1.5:1	Permanent	Fill
Wetland 11	0.15	0.02	0.06	3:1	Permanent	Fill

Wetland 12	0.15	0.11	0.165	1.5:1	Permanent	Fill
Total	**1.673**	**1.402**	**2.133**			

Table 4: Potential Surface Water Impact and Mitigation

Site	**Project Area (Ac.)**	**Impacted Area (Ac.)**	**Mitigation Credits Required**	**Impact Type**	**Impact Reason**
Site W1 (WOTUS 1)	0.003	0	0	N/A	N/A
Site W2 (WOTUS 2)	0.06	0	0	N/A	N/A
Site W3 (WOTUS 3)	0.05	0.02	TBD	Permanent	Drainage Improvements
		0.03	0	Temporary	
Site W4 (WOTUS 4)	0.18	0	0	N/A	N/A
Site W5 (WOTUS 5)	0.56	0	0	N/A	N/A
Total		**0.02 (Permanent)**	**TBD**		
		0.03 (Temporary)	**N/A**		

Appropriate BMPs will be implemented to minimize the surface water impacts that would occur during the execution of this project, including those that could contribute to the increased TSS loading in the surface water. BMPs will include the use of vegetated swales that consist of ditch checks and grass and stone mixtures.

A soil erosion and sediment control plan, based on Illinois Department of Transportation's Standard Specifications for Road and Bridge Construction, was developed for this project site. All erosion and sediment measures will be executed and maintained throughout construction and until the site conditions have been stabilized.

Purpose and Social & Economic Benefits of the Proposed Activity.

The purpose of this project is to improve safety and operations along Barrington Road by addressing crash patterns, correcting design deficiencies and incorporating bicycle and pedestrian accommodations.

Failing pavement, attributable to the presence of poor soils, has been observed along Barrington Road near the Poplar Creek culvert. Spot-specific pavement maintenance in recent years has been undermined. A gap in multimodal accommodations also exists between the south end of the

project limits, where a shared use path runs east along Central Road to the Douglas Forest Preserve Trail, and the north end of the project limits where Crabtree Trail runs along the north side of IL Route 62. The extant lane configuration within the corridor switches from 2 lanes in each direction south of Mundhank Road to 1 lane in each direction between Mundhank Road and IL Route 62 back to 2 lanes in each direction north of IL Route 62. Numerous rear end crashes have occurred due to the excessive congestion caused by the merging of the two lanes into one lane.

Economic and social benefits to be derived from the proposed improvements in this project include improved safety and less time idling in traffic for daily commuters. A continuous path from Douglas Park to Crabtree Trail will also become available to pedestrians and cyclists.

Assessments of Alternatives for Less Increase in Loading or Minimal Environmental Degradation.

Different alternatives were explored to determine one that would serve the purpose of the project while causing minimal impact to wetlands and/or WOTUS. The alternatives included the analysis lane and median widths, profile grade, sight distance, and pavement grades to address impact on safety. Right of way impacts were also considered. Hydraulic and drainage studies were conducted which allowed for analysis of the culvert alignment.

During the first phase of the alternatives study, two widening and reconstruction alternatives (2A and 2B) were considered. Two standard 12-foot lanes in each direction separated by a 22-foot wide median, or two 11-foot lanes in each direction separated by a 22-foot median. The reduced lane width option was chosen as reduced lanes were not predicted to have a high adverse impact on safety, and the reduced median width matched the width of the existing median south of Mundhank Road. A third alternative (3) was developed to address the road profile, and it was determined that raising the profile introduced positive drainage and eliminated substandard sight distance values. This minimized the concerns for flooding and increased safety. A fourth alternative (4A and 4B) looked at placement of the shared use path. It was ultimately determined that placement to the west side of the street due to less impacts to existing access points and required right of way. A fifth alternative (5A and 5B) analyzed construction of a retaining wall and side slopes to minimized WOTUS and wetland impacts.

Below is the final selection of alternatives that were considered:

Alternative 1 (No Build) – Without the proposed safety improvements, there would continue to be a high propensity for serious crashes in the project area. Failing to mitigate congestion in the area would hinder corridor mobility. A comparison was made between the existing conditions and current design standards. Under this alternative, substandard sight distance near Poplar Creek and substandard pavement grades along approximately 1000 ft of Barrington road, north of Mundhank Road, were identified. The existence of these conditions contributes to safety and flooding along Barrington road. If no action is taken to address the substandard

sight distance and pavement grades, accidents and flooding would likely continue. Therefore, the no-build alternative is not considered a viable option.

Alternative 2 – This alternative considered provision of two standard 12-foot lanes in each direction separated by a 22-foot-wide standard median. No plan was developed to address the vertical condition of the road in this alternative. The shared use path was evaluated for placement on the east side of the road; however, there were more impacts to existing access points and more right of way acquisition required. It was observed that the existing culvert may not have been installed in line with the original stream alignment of Poplar Creek. This alternative would install the new culvert in-line with the historical alignment of Poplar Creek. This would involve maintaining the west end of the proposed box culvert and moving the east end approximately 75 feet to the north. Realignment of the proposed box culvert was not considered further as the additional length would increase initial construction costs and future maintenance costs. This alignment also poses staging and installation difficulties. Additionally, this alternative would result in increased impacts to stream, wetlands, and driveways. For these reasons, Alternative 2 was not chosen as the preferred alternative.

Alternative 3 (Preferred Alternative) – This alternative considered provision of two 11-foot lanes in each direction separated by a 16-foot median. The reduced lane width was not expected to have a high adverse impact on safety, and the reduced median width was consistent with the existing median width south of Mundhank Road. This alternative improved corridor mobility and addressed safety and flooding concerns associated with substandard sight distance and pavement grades. By raising the profile 2 feet near STA 50+00 approximately 600 feet west of Mundhank Road, and by 3 feet over the proposed Poplar Creek box culvert, improved drainage is possible and substandard sight distance values are eliminated. This would, as a result, minimize the potential for flooding and increase safety. The shared use path would be placed on the west side of the road south of Mundhank Road. This placement would propose fewer impacts to existing access points and less right of way accommodations. To minimize right of way acquisition needs, the centerline of Barrington Road was shifted approximately 8 feet to the east. This alternative proposes placement of the new culvert be installed on the same alignment as the existing one, perpendicular to the centerline of Barrington Road. Additionally, this alternative impacts the no driveways and fewer wetland and stream acreage. For the reasons outlined, Alternative 3 was chosen as the preferred alternative.

Summary Comments of the Illinois Department of Natural Resources, Regional Planning Commissions, Zoning Boards or Other Entities.

An EcoCAT endangered species consultation (Project Number 2512203) was submitted on April 24, 2025. The natural resource review provided by EcoCAT identified protected resources that may be in the vicinity of the proposed project location. The identified species include – in the Illinois Natural Areas Inventory (INAI) – Crabtree Nature Center and Palatine Road Marsh INAIs. State threatened or endangered species include Black-crowned Night Heron, Common Moorhen/Gallinule, King Rail, Northern Harrier, Osprey, Short-eared Owl, and Yellow-headed Blackbird. Based on the proposed

project proximity and scope, Illinois Department of Natural Resources (IDNR) has recommended actions that the Applicant must take to avoid adverse impact of the project on the listed species and/or protected natural areas.

IDNR recommendations regarding Crabtree Nature Center and Palatine Road Marsh recommendations include:

- Re-seeding areas of exposed soil with a local genotype seed, approved IDOT seed mix, or non-invasive cover crop.
- Implementing soil erosion and sediment control BMPs with proper maintenance. Wildlife-friendly plastic-free blanket should be used to prevent the entanglement of native wildlife.
- Implementing and maintaining of good housekeeping practices, before and after construction, to prevent trash/debris from inadvertently blowing or washing into nearby natural areas.
- Cleaning all equipment, including boots, tools, equipment, tires, and treads, of all debris before entering the project area, where feasible, to avoid spreading of exotic or invasive plant seeds into the INAI sites.

Recommendations regarding state-listed threatened or endangered species – Black-crowned Night Heron, Gallinule, King Rail, Osprey and Yellow-headed Blackbird are that:

- Work on the proposed project should not be performed from March 1 through September 1 to avoid the nesting season for these species
- A survey and habitat assessment should be performed in the proposed project area if the specified date restrictions cannot be accommodated. Results of the assessment should be provided to IDNR for a final determination on impacts to the specified species and other migratory bird species.

Adverse effects to all the identified protected resources, including the Northern Harrier and Short-eared owl, are unlikely if the Applicant adopts these recommendations as provided by IDNR. Impacts to other protected resources in the proposed project vicinity are also unlikely.

An IDNR/IDOT-coordinated natural resource review (NRR) was also completed on November 14, 2024. Per the review, the project location is in an urban area and will have no adverse effect on identified state-listed wetland dependent birds. The project limits were also reviewed for habitat suitability for Rusty Patch Bumble Bee. The determination was that areas of medium or high-quality habitat are not within the project corridor, hence adverse effects to Rusty Patch Bumble Bee are not envisaged. The consultation under 17 Ill. Adm. Code Part 1075 is therefore terminated.

The NRR included an evaluation of the proposed project in fulfilment of specifications under Section 7(a)(2) of the Endangered Species Act and utilized tools such as the US Fish and Wildlife Service's web-based Information for Planning and Conservation (IPaC). This effort yielded a list of species that are endangered, threatened, proposed and candidate species, and proposed and designated critical habitat in the proposed project vicinity. Listed species in Cook County are Northern Long-eared Bat, Whooping Crane, Rufa Red Knot, Eastern Massasauga, Hine's Emerald

Dragonfly, Rusty Patched Bumble Bee, Western Regal Fritillary, Eastern Prairie Fringed Orchid, and Leafy Prairie-clover. According to the NRR, there is no Critical Habitat in the project vicinity.

A total of 211 trees will be removed because of the proposed project; while there is suitable habitat along Poplar Creek riparian corridor, there is no record of maternity roost trees, maternity colonies, or hibernacula near the project corridor. The project will not likely adversely affect the Northern Long-eared Bat with adherence to conservation measures. Specifically, trees that are 3 inches or more in diameter at breast height shall not be cleared from April 1 through September 30 of any year. The determination of this measure is partly based on the findings of a bridge/structure assessment, completed on April 4, 2024, that there were no bats of signs of bats utilizing the bridge. This assessment, according to the NRR, is valid for two years; expired assessments should be updated before the commencement of work on the bridge. Additionally, the Tricolored bat is a proposed candidate for federal listing as an endangered species. Depending on the outcome of the final ruling, additional consultation may be necessary for projects that are not complete by the effective date.

Furthermore, an evaluation of the proposed project limits for suitable Eastern Prairie Fringed Orchid habitat revealed that there will be no effect to the species from the project, as there are no impacted prairies or high-quality wetlands in the project corridor. Similarly, the NRR provided a determination that medium or high-quality habitat do not exist in the project area and adverse effect to Rusty Patched Bumble Bee will not occur.

The NRR ultimately determined that the proposed project is not likely to put the existence of any endangered or threatened species at risk or result in the destruction / adverse alteration of any critical habitat. Nonetheless, the Applicant should strictly adhere to the conservation measures and comments provided in the document.

Agency Conclusion.

This preliminary assessment was conducted pursuant to the Illinois Pollution Control Board regulation for Antidegradation found at 35 Ill. Adm. Code 302.105 (antidegradation standard) and was based on the information available to the Agency at the time of completion of this document. We tentatively find that the proposed activity would result in the attainment of water quality standards; that all technically and economically reasonable measures to avoid or minimize the extent of the proposed increase in pollutant loading have been incorporated into the proposed activity; and that this activity would benefit the area by providing improved operational efficiency and decreased travel times as well as address safety concerns in the corridor. Comments received during the 401 Water Quality Certification public notice period will be evaluated before a final decision is made by the Agency.